

2012

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH
OFFICIAL CONGRESSIONAL
CEREMONY

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2012
CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER
CONGRESSIONAL AUDITORIUM



2012

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



2.1 million undocumented youth qualify for the DREAM Act. **10% are of Asian origin.**
(Asian American Justice Center)



In the Southeast Asian American community, **35-40% of Hmong, Laotian and Cambodian populations do not finish high school.**
(2006 American Community Survey)

Between 2005 and 2009, AAPIs suffered from a **54% drop in median household wealth.**
(Pew Research Center)



When the housing market collapsed, AAPIs suffered the **largest percentage of foreclosures of any racial group.**
(AP, 9/21/2009)



AAPIs account for over 50% of chronic **Hepatitis B infections in the United States.** Hepatitis B is the leading cause of liver cancer in the world.
(Asian Liver Center, Stanford School of Medicine)

NOT HIRING

From 2007 to 2010, AAPIs had the **highest share of long term unemployment of any racial group.**
(Economic Policy Institute)

Breaking the **MODEL MINORITY** Myth

In 2008, 32% of Korean Americans and 25% of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders **did not have health insurance.**
(Kaiser Family Foundation)



The Facts about Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

The Asian American population grew by 46% between 2000 and 2010, faster than any other racial group in the country and four times faster than the total U.S. population.

May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, a chance to learn more about the contributions and challenges of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community.



Since 1994, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) has advocated for the needs and concerns of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Currently chaired by Congresswoman Judy Chu of California and comprised of over 40 Members of Congress, the non-partisan, bi-cameral caucus serves as a voice for the AAPI community at the federal level.

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HOSTS

Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Congresswoman Judy Chu, Chair

The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) is a non-partisan, bicameral caucus of 42 Members of Congress, including Members of Asian and Pacific Islander descent and those who have a strong dedication to promoting the well-being of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. The caucus was founded in 1994 by then-Congressman Norman Mineta and is currently led by Congresswoman Judy Chu of California, who became chair in February 2011.

Staff Contact: Gene Kim (202) 225-5464

Office of the Democratic Leader of the U.S. House of Representative Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Leader of the House of Representatives

Elected by her colleagues to set the party's agenda, Leader Pelosi works with Congressional Democrats to shape policy and frame the legislative debate. As the top Democrat in the House, she is a leading spokesperson for Congressional Democrats. From 2007 to 2011, she served as the first woman Speaker of the House and is also the first woman in American history to lead a major political party in Congress, having served as House Democratic Leader from 2003 to 2007. Leader Pelosi is the first woman, the first Californian and the first Italian-American to hold the position of Speaker.

Staff Contact: Stephanie Ueng (202) 225-0100

Office of the Democratic Whip of the U.S. House of Representatives Congressman Steny Hoyer, Democratic Whip of the House of Representatives

As House Democratic Whip for the 112th Congress, Congressman Hoyer is the second-ranking member of the House Democratic Leadership. He is charged with mobilizing the party vote on important legislation, acting as a liaison between Members and the Democratic Leadership, and coordinating strategy within the Caucus. He also plays a key role in shaping House Democrats' legislative priorities and in delivering the Democratic message.

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House Democratic Caucus Congressman John B. Larson, Chair

The Democratic Caucus works with every Democratic member of the House of Representatives to achieve consensus, bring their ideas and work to the forefront and ensure members have the tools they need to implement their goals. The Caucus nominates and elects the House Democratic Leadership, approves committee assignments, makes Caucus rules, enforces party discipline, and serves as a forum to develop and communicate party policy and legislative priorities. It accomplishes these tasks through weekly Caucus Meetings, on-going Issue Task Forces, the yearly Caucus Issues Conference, periodic special events, and continual Member-to-Member communication.

Staff Contact: Kim Jaworski (202) 225-1400





CAPAC Chairwoman Judy Chu

*United States Congresswoman for California, District 32
Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus*

Dr. Judy Chu was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for California's 32nd District in July 2009 and is the first Chinese-American woman to serve in Congress. Previously, Dr. Chu served on the California State Board of Equalization. Before joining the State Board of Equalization, she served three terms as a State Assembly Member for the 49th District in the West San Gabriel Valley from 2001-2006, where she chaired the Assembly Appropriations Committee and the California Asian and Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus.

She was elected as Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus in February of 2011 and has championed a number of issues in Congress on healthcare, education, economic development, and immigration reform. Prior to her political career, she taught psychology for 20 years. She earned her B.A. in mathematics from UCLA and her Ph.D. in psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology.



Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi

*United States Congresswoman for California, District 08
Democratic Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives*

Nancy Pelosi is the Democratic Leader of the House of Representatives in the 112th Congress. From 2007 to 2011, she served as the first woman Speaker of the House and is also the first woman in American history to lead a major political party in Congress, having served as House Democratic Leader from 2003 to 2007. Leader Pelosi has represented San Francisco, California's Eighth District, for 25 years.

Pelosi brings to her leadership position a distinguished record of legislative accomplishment. She led the Congress in passing historic health insurance reform, key investments in college aid, clean energy and innovation, and initiatives to help small businesses and veterans. She has been a powerful voice for civil rights and human rights around the world for decades. Pelosi comes from strong family tradition of public service in Baltimore. Married to Paul Pelosi, she is a mother of five and grandmother of nine.





Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer

*United States Congressman for Maryland, District 05
Democratic Whip of the U.S. House of Representatives*

Congressman Steny H. Hoyer of Maryland serves as House Democratic Whip for the 112th Congress and plays a key role in shaping Democrats' legislative priorities. He previously served as Majority Leader from 2007-2011. He was first elected to the House in 1981. Congressman Hoyer is spearheading House Democrats' Make It In America plan to rebuild American manufacturing, increase economic competitiveness, and create well-paying jobs for the middle class.

A firm believer that fiscal responsibility is critical to a strong economy and affording the investments we need for our future, Congressman Hoyer led the effort that put the "PAYGO" principle into law, mandating that our nation must pay for what it buys. As an advocate of equal opportunity, Congressman Hoyer guided the Americans with Disabilities Act to passage in 1990 and was a lead sponsor of the Help America Vote Act in 2002, hailed as the most important voting rights legislation since the 1960's. Congressman Hoyer and his wife, the late Judith Hoyer, raised their three daughters in Prince George's and St. Mary's Counties.



Democratic Caucus Chairman John B. Larson

*United States Congressman for Connecticut, District 01
Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Democratic Caucus*

Congressman John B. Larson serves as the Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus for the 112th Congress. As Chairman, he works to bring together the diverse Members of the Caucus to formulate policy and build consensus on the key issues of the day. A product of public housing, public education, and public service, Larson is committed to building a stronger nation for all Americans. As Chairman of the Caucus since 2009, Larson has helped lead the fights for passage of the Affordable Care Act, a sustainable energy future for the nation, and restoring jobs and the economy so we can reignite the American Dream for working and middle class families.

First elected in 1999, Larson has represented his hometown of East Hartford, Connecticut and the First Congressional District in Congress for fourteen years. Before entering Congress, Larson was a high school history teacher and athletic coach and owner of Larson & Lysik insurance company. He also served twelve years in the Connecticut State Senate, including eight years as the Senate President Pro Tempore. The Congressman and his wife Leslie have three children, and are life-long residents of East Hartford



Keynote Speaker

Senator Daniel K. Akaka

U.S. Senator Daniel Kahikina Akaka is America's first Senator of Native Hawaiian ancestry, and the only Chinese American member of the United States Senate.

Like many of his generation, Senator Akaka's youth was interrupted by World War II. Upon graduation from high school, he served as a civilian worker in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from 1943 to 1945 and then in active duty in the U.S. Army from 1945 to 1947.



Following the war, Senator Akaka returned to school enrolling in the University of Hawaii. A strong believer in the power of education, he made it his career, as a teacher and principal in the State of Hawaii Department of Education.

First elected to the U.S. House in 1976, Congressman Akaka was appointed to the Senate when Senator Spark Matsunaga passed away, subsequently winning election to the office in 1990, and re-election in 1994, 2000, and 2006.

Senator Akaka is Chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee and the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia.

Senator Akaka also serves on the Armed Services, Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, and Veterans' Affairs Committees.

Raised in a deeply religious family, Senator Akaka is a member of the historic Kawaiaha`o Church where he served as choir director for 17 years. He and his wife Millie are the parents of four sons and a daughter who have blessed them with 15 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.



CAPAC Membership

Leadership



Rep. Judy Chu
Chair
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 1520 Longworth
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Rep. Madeleine Bordallo
Vice Chair
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 2441 Rayburn
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Rep. Michael Honda
Chair Emeritus
 (CA-15)
 1713 Longworth
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Rep. Colleen Hanabusa
Whip
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 238 Cannon
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Executive Board Members



Sen. Daniel K. Akaka
 (HI)
 141 Hart
 (202) 224-6361



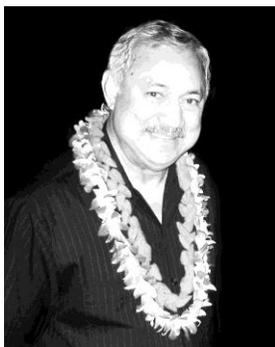
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 (CA-31)
 1226 Longworth
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Rep. Hansen Clarke
 (MI-13)
 1319 Longworth
 (202) 225-2261



Rep. Eni Faleomavaega
 (AS)
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Rep. Al Green
 (TX-09)
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Executive Board Members



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**Rep. Gregorio Kilili
Camacho Sablan**
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423 Cannon
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Associate Members



Rep. Karen Bass
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Rep. Howard Berman
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Rep. Gerry Connolly
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424 Cannon
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Rep. John Conyers, Jr.
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Rep. Joseph Crowley
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2404 Rayburn
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Rep. Susan Davis
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Rep. Bob Filner
(CA-51)
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Rep. Raul M. Grijalva
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Associate Members



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Rep. Carolyn Maloney
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Rep. Betty McCollum
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Rep. Jerry McNerny
(CA-11)
1210 Longworth
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Rep. Grace Napolitano
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1610 Longworth
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Rep. Laura Richardson
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Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard
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2330 Rayburn
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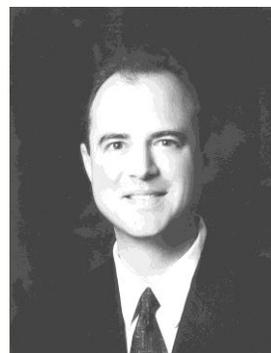
Rep. Linda Sanchez
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Rep. Loretta Sanchez
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Rep. Janice Schakowsky
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2367 Rayburn
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Rep. Adam Schiff
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2411 Rayburn
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Associate Members



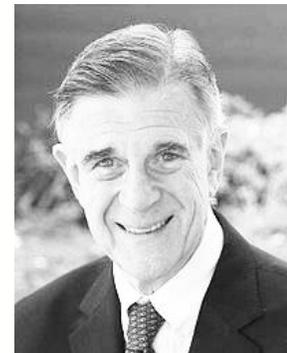
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Rep. Adam Smith
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Rep. Jackie Speier
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Rep. Pete Stark
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Rep. Chris Van Hollen
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1707 Longworth
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Rep. Lynn Woolsey
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Civil Rights Priorities

Civil Rights Taskforce Chair
Rep. Bobby Scott (VA-03)

Oppose Racial and Religious Discrimination

- Support legislation, such as the End Racial Profiling Act, that eliminates law enforcement practices of singling out people for heightened scrutiny based on their race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin.
- Denounce racial and religious discrimination affecting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, including incidents related to post-9/11 backlash.
- Support robust hate crimes and bias-based bullying protections, such as the Safe Schools Improvement Act, and strengthen anti-discrimination policies.
- Object to Homeland Security Committee hearings and other legislative efforts that isolate and target one religious or ethnic community, including the American Muslim community, for heightened scrutiny.
- Support the Conyers resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the federal government should take steps to counter anti-Muslim sentiment.
- Support workplace religious freedom legislation and oppose religious discrimination in employment with government funding.
- Support efforts to end faith-based workplace segregation.

Protect Voting Rights

- Monitor and advocate against voter identification requirement legislation and proof of citizenship bills at the state and federal levels.
- Support efforts to remove barriers to the voting process.

Promote Language Access

- Support efforts that help prevent discrimination against persons with Limited English Proficiency and ensure these individuals have access to critical governmental services.





Economic Development Priorities

CAPAC Economic Development Taskforce Chair

Rep. Judy Chu (CA-32)

Promote Access to Capital

- Identify discrimination in lending by continuing to promote the collection of data on small business borrowers by race, ethnicity, and gender, and evaluating the status of the data collection provision in the Wall Street Reform Act that was successfully pushed for by CAPAC and the CBC.
- Ensure that AAPI businesses receive culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach in the newly passed \$30 billion Small Business Lending Fund, which Reps. Carson, Chu, Green, and Honda successfully offered as an amendment to the Fund.
- Monitor upcoming legislation to ensure the minority business community's lending needs are met.

Promote Access to Contracting and Procurement

- Hold federal agencies accountable to their contracting goals; federal agencies missed their small business contracting goals by 2%, and that translated to a loss of \$10 billion for the small business community.
- Work with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) on a report to assess the outreach and development program for minority businesses to understand the challenges minority businesses face when working with federal agencies. This will be a basis for future legislation to help minority businesses win contracts.
- Promote awareness and participation in federal technical assistance programs by holding federal agencies accountable to AAPI-owned businesses, pushing for AAPI language access, fighting for AAPI outreach, and increasing funds for outreach and education.

Promote Workforce Diversity for AAPIs in the Public and Private Sectors

- Address the glass ceiling preventing AAPIs from obtaining managerial positions in the public and private sectors by advocating for promotion of workforce and management diversity with federal agencies and private corporations.



- Provide oversight over federal agencies plans to increase the AAPI workforce required by the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI)
- Follow up on Comcast's diversity commitments that were successfully secured by CAPAC, in collaboration with the Asian-American Media Coalition and Asian-American Justice Center, and work to improve media diversity overall.

Support Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act

- Support reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act that better meets the needs of AAPI workers and families by providing high-quality training for workers that will lead to good jobs available now and the future.





Education Priorities

CAPAC Education Taskforce Chair
Rep. Mazie K. Hirono (HI-02)

Increase and Improve Data on AAPI Students

- Increase the reporting of disaggregated student achievement data based on ethnicity and increase the reporting of the school resources provided to communities that face educational challenges.
- Create and fund programs that increase the number of AAPI researchers in education in order to ensure that AAPI perspectives are included when developing research on education.

Ensure Sustainable Funding and Support to the AANAPISI Program

- Provide increased and sustainable support and funding for the Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISI) Program to help underserved students overcome barriers to a college degree.
- Explore combined Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) funding for institutions that enroll higher percentages of more than one minority group.

Improve Capacity of Educational Institutions to Serve AAPIs

- Increase funding for programs that can increase the capacity of schools and school districts to serve AAPI students.
- Ensure Title III funds reach AAPI students
- Ensure that the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) includes funding mechanisms that adequately and fairly address the student populations of the territories and the Freely Associated States (FAS).
- Promote legislation and policies that will encourage states to appropriately integrate AAPI issues throughout the standards of learning in all subject areas and for all grade levels.

Improve Assessment of AAPI Students, Especially AAPI English Language Learners (ELLs)

- Develop policies in Title I and Title VI of ESEA that require schools and districts to use the most appropriate form of assessments as deemed valid and reliable by education



experts in measuring ELL student achievement and to provide accommodations for ELL students such as, but not limited to: native language assessments, dictionaries, additional time for tests, and interpreters.

- Mandate and provide funds for states to develop accountability systems that are based on multiple measures.

Improve Teacher Preparation and Quality

- Provide targeted financial and other resources in Title II of the Higher Education Act and Title II of ESEA for pre-service and in-service teacher education and professional development programs so that the linguistic, cultural, and other educational needs of AAPI students can be more adequately addressed.
- Improve recruitment and retention of AAPI Teachers, Administrators, and staff

Improve AAPI Parental Involvement Programs

- Enforce the language access and parent engagement provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and Title I of No Child Left Behind.
- Increase funding for schools to provide necessary translators and culturally/linguistically competent home-school coordinators who can work with AAPI parents and caregivers.
- Support policies and funding for community-based organizations working in AAPI communities to engage parents and caregivers in local schools.

Increase Availability of Early Childhood Education

- Provide greater funds to promote free quality public school pre-kindergarten programs and full-day kindergarten programs.

Safe Environments for All Students

- Strengthen Title IV, Part A, of the ESEA covering “Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities” by requiring schools to take additional steps to prevent, keep records of, and report bullying and harassment, and to educate school staff and students about these issues.
- Enable OCR regional offices to pursue more discrimination and harassment claims.





Healthcare Priorities

CAPAC Healthcare Taskforce Chair
Rep. Barbara Lee (CA-09)

Expand Access to Health Care

- Track implementation of the Affordable Care Act and ensure that the law successfully expands access to health care for uninsured and underinsured Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders.
- Continue efforts to make health coverage truly affordable, by providing comprehensive health and mental health benefits, setting subsidies at appropriate levels for both individuals and families, and capping out-of-pocket costs.
- Work to eliminate health disparities in minority communities through support of the Health Equity and Accountability Act.
- Expand Medicaid eligibility to Compacts of Free Association Migrants.

Ensure Culturally Competent and Linguistically Appropriate Care

- Support programs and research on diseases and chronic conditions that disproportionately affect AAPIs, including Hepatitis B, diabetes and obesity.
- Support legislation that bars discrimination in the provision of health care based on primary language.
- Support the creation of a credentialing body and adequate standards by which to judge the quality of health interpreters and translators.

Improve Data Collection and Health Research

- Improve national data collection by requiring the inclusion of information on race, ethnicity, and primary language spoken based on standards that take into account the diversity of the Asian American and Pacific Islander populations
- Promote diversity among reviewers of health research proposals to ensure that the interests of underserved populations are considered in grant making processes.
- Require ethnic diversity in clinical trials in order to measure the safety and effectiveness of drugs and therapies in a broad range of individuals.
- Fully fund and implement Section 4302 of the Affordable Care Act that strengthens data collection by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.



- Fully fund provisions in the Affordable Care Act related to the expansion and creation of Minority Health initiatives within the Department of Health and Human Services.

Prioritize Prevention and Public Health

- Support legislation to create a surveillance system to track hepatitis infection, support activities to promote early detection and education (particularly in vulnerable populations), and support research on improved treatments and vaccines.
- Continue to advocate that CDC prioritizes the prevention and treatment of viral hepatitis and provides strong leadership and sufficient resources to combat the disease.
- Support funding for programs that aim to reduce Cancer Disparities at the CDC, while maintaining funding for Cancer research at the NIH.
- Support funding for programs under the Minority AIDS Initiative and ensure resources for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.
- Support funding for REACH program within the CDC.
- Protect funding for the Prevention and Public Health fund that allow communities to develop effective prevention programs.
- Defend the ACA against efforts to reduce women's access to comprehensive reproductive health services.
- Support funding for programs that work to decrease and prevent Cervical Cancer for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.





Housing Priorities

CAPAC Housing Taskforce Chair
Rep. Al Green (TX-09)

Defend Critical Housing and Community Development Programs from Cuts

- Defend programs such as the Community Development Block Grant, Housing Counseling Programs, Native Hawaiian Block Grant, Neighborhood Stabilization Program, Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP), Emergency Mortgage Relief Program, Federal Housing Administration (FHA) Refinance Program and Section 202 for senior housing that would disproportionately impact AAPI and low-income people.

Advocate for Reforms in Secondary Mortgage Market

- Preserve and keep intact access to affordable mortgages for AAPI low and moderate-income borrowers.
- Encourage collaborations with AAPI community organizations to make affordable mortgages available to people who have participated in homeownership counseling.
- Support practicable and reasonable government sponsored enterprise (GSE) reform that maintains access for low to middle-income AAPI qualified borrowers who can sustain homeownership.

Support Community and Economic Development Programs

- Support programs that strengthen access to services, job opportunities, and capital, including Community Services Block Grants.
- Increase participation of AAPI and immigrant communities in Community Development Financial Institutions Fund Programs; reauthorize the New Markets Tax Credit; and reauthorize the Assets for Independence Act.

Expand and Preserve Supply of Affordable Rental Housing

- Provide measures to make Section 8 vouchers more workable for preservation projects and for non-profits to use in low-income housing developments.
- Revise the formula for Low Income Housing Tax Credits to factor in indicators of state housing needs.



- Fund the National Housing Trust Fund.

Eliminate Abusive and Fraudulent Lending Practices

- Continue to build on the Wall Street Reform Act and work to address abusive and fraudulent lending practices through strong consumer protection regulations.

Expand Access to Financial Services and Financial Education

- Defend legislation that strengthens and expands the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) to bring investments for education, homeownership, and entrepreneurship, and continued focus on affordable housing and community economic development investments in low-income APA neighborhoods.
- Continue support and funding for the Earned Income Tax Credit and Volunteer Income Tax Preparation programs.

Support Increasing Native Hawaiian Homeownership

- Protect and increase funding for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant program.
- Expand financial literacy and homeownership assistance to Native Hawaiians throughout the state of Hawaii.
- Restore the maximum loan-to-value ratio for FHA 247 mortgage refinance and equity transactions to 95 percent – the level that is currently available nationally. The lower lending limit of 75 percent reduces access to home equity for Native Hawaiian families.

Promote Affordable Homeownership Opportunities

- Support housing counseling organizations that provide linguistically and culturally appropriate services.
- Support tax credits to subsidize the development and rehabilitation of affordable units for low- and moderate-income families for purchase.





Immigration Priorities

CAPAC Immigration Taskforce Chair
Rep. Mike Honda (CA-15)

Support Comprehensive Immigration Reform

- Ensure that our longstanding tradition of family-based immigration is sustained, reunite families by reducing the backlog in the family immigration system, provide adequate numbers of family-based visas per year, update family preference categories, adjust per country limits, and remove bars to reentry and adjustment of status.
- Provide discretionary authority to immigration judges to determine that an alien parent of a U.S. citizen child should not be ordered removed from the U.S., and restore states' rights to offer in-state tuition to immigrant students residing in their state.
- Provide legal status and a path to permanent residence for undocumented immigrants who work hard, pay taxes, undergo criminal and national security checks, and learn English and civics, and provide legal channels for immigrants, who wish to contribute to the American economy, to enter the U.S.
- Ensure that fees charged for citizenship applications are affordable for those who are low income and that fee waivers are generously applied.
- Ensure that naturalization tests are fair, and ensure adequate immigrant integration resources for community based organizations that provide direct services such as English, civics, and naturalization courses, to individuals.
- Oppose any proposal that promotes border security and interior enforcement-only approaches.
- Support provisions that allow workers on H-1B visas greater ability to change employers, jobs, or positions without losing their immigration status and provide a longer grace period against laid-off H-1B workers to find replacement jobs or make arrangements prior to leaving.
- Support the strengthening of U.S. refugee resettlement programs.

Support Family Reunification for Filipino WWII Veterans

- Support legislation that would exempt the sons and daughters of Filipino World War II veterans from quotas on family immigration visas, allowing aging Filipino veterans living in the U.S. to be reunited expeditiously with their families.



Restore Due Process for Immigrants

- Support legislation that provides due process protections to immigrants; eliminate retroactive provisions of deportation laws; support an effective use of prosecutorial discretion; restore proportionality and judicial review to our immigration system; and protect civil liberties by eliminating mandatory and indefinite detention of immigrants.

Promote Access to Citizenship and Integration of AAPI Immigrants

- Ensure that all eligible legal immigrants have fair and equal access to the citizenship process. Ensure that the naturalization process remains fair and accessible.
- Support English language acquisition, civics education, voter registration and basic education programs.

Oppose Birthright Citizenship Proposals

- Oppose any birthright citizenship proposals and other legislative efforts that would restrict rights under the 14th Amendment.

Oppose Mandatory, Nationwide Implementation of E-Verify

- Oppose any mandatory, nationwide implementation of E-Verify without resolving serious privacy, civil liberties, budgetary, and technological flaws.

Oppose Federal Programs that Authorize State and Local Police to Enforce Federal Immigration Laws

- Oppose expansion of programs, such as the 287(g) program, Criminal Alien Program, and Secure Communities, that burden local law enforcement agencies.

Support Administrative Relief for Parents of U.S. Citizen Children, Parents of DREAM students, and DREAM students

- Urge President Obama to provide for humanitarian parole for parents of U.S. citizen children, parents of DREAMers, and DREAM students, and urge deferred action for those not appropriate for parole support.
- Redefine 3 and 10 year bar waivers through Administrative guidance.

Support SSI for Elderly and Disabled Refugees

- Support a long-term legislative solution to ensure that elderly and disabled refugees are not automatically cut off of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) after seven years if they face barriers to naturalization.





Additional Policy Priorities

Pass the Expression of Regret for the Chinese Exclusion Act

- Pass H.Res. 282, expressing the regret of the House of Representatives for the passage of discriminatory laws against the Chinese in the United States, including the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which restricted the immigration of Chinese and Asian people to the United States.

Support Federal Recognition for Native Hawaiians

- Support legislation that provides Native Hawaiians with the same right to self-determination and self-governance that are afforded to other indigenous peoples and provides a structured process to address the longstanding issues resulting from the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii.

Support Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act

- Support legislation to recognize the suffering and loyalty of the people of Guam during its occupation by the Japanese during World War II.

Support Equitable Treatment for the Territories

- Support legislation to provide for American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas to be treated as states for certain criminal justice programs.
- Support legislation to provide for the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands to be treated as States under the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program.
- Support equitable distribution of nutrition programs and assistance to small agricultural producers.

Veterans Issues

- Support a National Cemetery Burial bill to recognize all who served for the Kingdom of Laos under the Royal Lao Armed Forces, during the Secret War in Laos and the Vietnam War.



- Honor U.S.-Allied Southeast Asian veterans who sacrificed to defend democracy as allies with the U.S. and work to secure VA benefits for veterans who fought alongside U.S. forces during the Vietnam War era in Southeast Asia.
- Support the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011 (H.R. 210), a bill that would deem certain services in the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts to have been active service for purposes of benefits under programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Promote AAPI Census Count

- Support Language Access Guides, similar to those provided for the 2010 Census for AAPI languages for the American Community Survey.
- Work with the National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and Other Populations to outline proposals for improving the AAPI count in Census 2020.
- Support the expansion of the American Community Survey to the territories.
- Advocate for adequate funding for the Census Bureau during budget and appropriations processes.





Highlights from the 112th Congress

❖ Working to Strengthen Our Economy and Create Jobs

Throughout the 112th Congress, CAPAC has pushed for job creation measures to support AAPI families and put Americans back to work. In their meeting with Administrator Karen Mills of the U.S. Small Business Administration, CAPAC members highlighted the needs of the most marginalized in the AAPI community, who often face cultural and linguistic barriers to accessing government services. CAPAC has also worked to support small businesses by raising greater awareness about government funding and loan opportunities, as well as highlighting the need for more culturally and linguistically appropriate services. Most recently, CAPAC led a letter to fight for critical appropriations funding for the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) to ensure that we continue to invest in and support minority-owned firms that are crucial to our economic recovery. CAPAC members are committed to strengthening and developing economic opportunities for the community and will continue to ensure that AAPI individuals and businesses have access to the critical services they need to grow and prosper.

❖ Pushing for Comprehensive Immigration Reform and Family Reunification

Comprehensive immigration reform is a top priority for our caucus and the millions of AAPIs that we represent. CAPAC works to ensure that the voices of the AAPI community are represented in the immigration debate. On May 6, 2011, CAPAC Immigration Taskforce Chair Rep. Mike Honda reintroduced the Reuniting Families Act (H.R. 1796). The provisions in this bill are critical for AAPI communities and include: reducing backlogs by alleviating lengthy wait times; retaining family preference categories; allowing individuals to apply for waivers for the 3 and 10 year bars to reentry within the U.S.; allocating unused employment-based and family-sponsored visas; and eliminating discrimination facing same-sex couples in sponsoring their spouses. During their meetings with President Obama and Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, CAPAC discussed the importance of comprehensive immigration reform and the critical priorities identified in Rep. Honda's bill.

❖ Closing the Achievement Gap in Education

Throughout the 112th Congress, CAPAC continued the fight to close achievement gaps and strengthen funding to support AAPI students from early education through college and beyond. Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPIs) have long struggled with the stereotype of being a "model minority" with relatively high achievement in education. This myth masks major achievement gaps for subgroups of students within our community and highlights the need for greater data disaggregation. In their meetings with President Obama and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, CAPAC Members have pushed for Congressional legislation and administrative actions to disaggregate data in order to shed light on the glaring needs of student subgroups within the AAPI community. CAPAC has also consistently fought to fund critical education programs that benefit AAPI students, including the American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI) program.



❖ **Advancing Initiatives to Eliminate Health Disparities**

CAPAC works to address the diverse health needs of the AAPI community and to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities. This Congress, CAPAC led the Congressional Tri-Caucus – comprised of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus – in the development and introduction of H.R. 2954, the Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2011 (HEAA). CAPAC Executive Board Member Senator Daniel K. Akaka introduced a companion bill, S. 2474 in the Senate. The HEAA builds upon the tools in the Affordable Care Act to combat racial and ethnic health care disparities. CAPAC Healthcare Taskforce Chair Rep. Barbara Lee discussed the importance of the bill during CAPAC’s meeting with President Obama. CAPAC is currently working with the Obama Administration on ways to administratively implement portions of the bill.

❖ **Combating Racial and Religious Profiling**

CAPAC has consistently been at the forefront of supporting measures to combat racial and religious profiling. Throughout the 112th Congress, CAPAC Members have spoken out against anti-Asian rhetoric and xenophobic discourse, and have consistently pushed for the passage of anti-profiling legislation. In their meetings with President Obama, Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, and other key agency officials, CAPAC Members highlighted critical issues of concern to the AAPI community, including the treatment of Sikh-Americans at airport security screenings and the unprecedented levels of hate crimes, bias-based bullying, discrimination, and profiling faced by members of the Muslim, Sikh, and South Asian community. In addition, CAPAC has been at the forefront of efforts to push for an investigation into allegations that the New York Police Department, with the help of the Central Intelligence Agency, has been collecting information on the Muslim community in New York City and surrounding states.

❖ **Fighting for Housing Counseling Funding**

CAPAC is committed to a housing and community development agenda that enhances the health and welfare of AAPI families and businesses. As our country continues to work through the foreclosure crisis, it has become increasingly apparent how deep the impact has been on the AAPI community. Targeted first by predatory lenders, and now by foreclosure scams, the AAPI community relies heavily on linguistically and culturally sensitive housing counseling. On April 14, 2011, CAPA Housing Taskforce Chair Rep. Al Green offered an amendment to restore \$88 million to the HUD Housing Counseling Assistance Program, which had been zeroed out by Republicans in H.R. 1473. CAPAC also sent letters to Congressional appropriators and to the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction (“Super Committee”) stressing the need for increased funding for housing counseling. In FY 2012, due in part to the work of CAPAC and the broader Tri-Caucus, \$45 million was allocated to the HUD Housing Counseling Assistance Program. CAPAC has continued to push for critical housing counseling funding, as well as housing assistance and foreclosure relief programs, in the FY2013 appropriations cycle.





2012
**ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH**
OFFICIAL CONGRESSIONAL CEREMONY

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